in the open market are under control and the mills do not have any undue advantage over other mills. The actual allotment of sugar will be made by the Department of Sugar and Edible Oils on exmination of representations from sugar mills received. Reference to PMO or involvement of PMO in any other way does not arise.

It is, therefore, clarified that Government has not restored the system of additional allotments to sugar mills. Only advance allotments are being made in certain exceptional cases."

PDS for the Poor

3673. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the current number of people covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), is estimated to be 35 crore and annual foodgrains requirement about 17 million tonnes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that food subsidy bill in the last fiscal year was estimated to be Rs. 10,500 crores; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to allow "PDS only for poor and, in turn, cut save the subsidy on food bill", as reported in the Economic Times New Delhi, dated 26th February, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) At the time of introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in June, 1997, it was intended to benefit 35.79% of the population living below poverty line (BPL) i.e., about 6 crore poor families or 32.04 crores persons. The total requirement of foodgrains was 175 lakh tonnes out of which about 72 lakh tonnes was earmarked for BPL families 10 kg. per family per month and the balance 103 lakh tonnes for above poverty line (APL) families. With effect from 1.4.2000 the allocation of foodgrains to the BPL population has been increased from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family while maintaining the allocations for the APL families at the same level. The total annual foodgrains requirement for TPDS is now 246.15 lakh tonnes including 142.91 lakh tonnes earmarked for families living below poverty line.

(b) No, Sir. The budget estimate of food subsidy in the year 1999-2000 was Rs. 8200 crores and the revised estimate inclusive of subsidy to State Governments for decentralised procurement was Rs. 9200 crores.

(c) The Central Issue Price of wheat and rice distributed under PDS has been revised w.e.f. 1st April, 2000 at 50% of the economic cost for BPL population and 100% of economic cost for APL population. Consequently, the food subsidy under TPDS is now better channelised towards targeted group, *i.e.*, people living below poverty line. So, the subsidy for BPL has effectively increased from 5240 crores to Rs. 7656 crores.

Edible Oil Quota for Arunachal Pradesh

3674. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quota of edible oil for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for Arunachal Pradesh for distribution among the people through Public Distribution System;

(b) the details of actual release of the said quota during 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(c) the details of actual demand made by Arunachal Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) No. quota is fixed by the Central Government for States/Union Territories with regard to allocation of imported edible oils for supply through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Allocation is made on the basis of requests from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Since no demand for allotment of edible oil fog distribution through PDS was placed by Arunachal Pradesh Government during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, no allocations have been made by the Cental Government to Arunachal Pradesh for these years.

Foodgrains to BPL Card Holders

3675. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of BPL card holders in the country in 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the total quantity of rice and wheat allotted for them, year-wise; and